

to inculcate, in order that he may learn the real state of things. When my campaigns of Italy and of Egypt, as well as those manuscripts which I leave, shall be printed, I desire they may be dedicated to my son; I wish also that to these may be added the letters from sovereigns; they may be procured in the Archives: the national vanity will gain much by the publication of them, so that the permission to obtain them will not be refused." <sup>i</sup>

The last desire of Napoleon was executed by the publication of a part only of those manuscripts which were dictated by him to the Generals Gourgaud and Montholon; the remainder are in the possession of General Bertram, to whom I have been indebted for permission to print the *Notes upon the Commentaries of Ccesar* which have been in my hands during the last eighteen months. The nature of my service obliged me to be near the person of the Emperor, for he constantly did me the honor to desire I would read to him, or write from his dictation. It was in this manner that the *Notes on the Commentaries of Ccesar* were written by me, and dictated by Napoleon, during his long and sleepless nights, "during which," he would say, "study and occupation bring some alleviation to my sufferings, and strew a few flowers on the path that conducts me to the grave."

The hours which preceded the death of Napoleon were employed in serious conversation, or in reading aloud, more than in the care of his health. The two last readings which were made to the Emperor by his desire were *The Campaigns of Hannibal*, read to him by Count Bertram!, and *The Campaigns of Dumouriez*, which I had the honor to read. The last dictation that he undertook was to Count Montholon, in the night of the 2Dth of April: it was a project of a military organization for France, and entitled "PREMIERE REVERIE." From four to five o'clock in the morning he continued to dictate to me the same subject, after the Count had retired, desiring me to call it "SECONDS REVERIE," and to annex it to the other part.

When he had finished he told me that he felt capable of riding fifteen leagues. Alas! this state was not to last long.

Between eight and nine o'clock in the evening of the 2d of May, being much occupied with testamentary matters, and expressing often a tender anxiety for his son, the Emperor dictated to me the following paper: —

*"I leave to my son the house I occupied at Ajaccio with its accessories, two other houses near the Salines, with their gardens, also all my property in the territory of Ajaccio, which, united, will furnish him with an annual income of 50,000 francs.*

*"I leave----"* He now found himself so much fatigued that he could dictate no more ; he postponed the remainder until the morrow ;

<sup>i</sup> See *Du Casse*, tome x. pp. 229-306, for an account of the disappearance of this correspondence, in which we should have read the depth of servility to which the Sovereigns had descended towards Napoleon in his days *at* power.